



BOROUGH OF HIGHAM FERRERS.



ANNUAL REPORTS

FOR THE YEAR 1938

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND OF THE

Sanitary Inspector.



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Medical Officer's Report.

HIGHAM FERRERS,
May, 1939.

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the state of the Public Health for the Borough of Higham Ferrers for the year 1938. The Report is drawn up in accordance with the suggestions issued by the Ministry of Health in Circular 1728.

Statistics.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	1,945
Population. Registrar-General's Estimate Mid 1938.					3,120
Number of Inhabited houses. 31/12/38.	...	...	...	...	1,025
Total Rateable Value. ...	...	...	...	...	£13,117
Sum represented by a penny rate					£49-10s.

Social Conditions.

There has been no change in the social conditions or occupations of the inhabitants during the year.

Vital Statistics.

		Total.	Males.	Females.
Live Births.	Legitimate	35	13	22
	Illegitimate	1	1	—
Total		36	14	22

The Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population was 11·5 as compared with 15·1 for England and Wales.

		Total.	Males.	Females.
Still Births.	Legitimate	1	—	1
	Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total		1	—	1

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 27·7.

Deaths.

Total.	Males.	Females.
35	15	20

The crude death rate per 1,000 population for the year 1938 was 11·2 which, multiplied by the comparability factor 0·94 supplied by the Registrar-General, gave a corrected death rate of 10·5 as compared with 11·6 for England and Wales. This death rate of 10·5 is the rate which, it is assumed would be arrived at if the age and sex constitution of the population of Higham Ferrers were distributed in the same proportion as that of England and Wales as a whole.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
Other puerperal causes	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	Nil.

Death rate of infants under one year of age.

All infants per 1,000 live births	27·7
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	28·57
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	4
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	Nil

The Registered Causes of Death were as follows :

	Male.	Female.	Total.
All causes	15	20	35
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	1	—	1
Cancer	1	3	4
Cerebral Haemorrhage etc.	1	3	4
Heart Disease	5	7	12
Other Circulatory Diseases	—	1	1
Bronchitis	1	—	1
Pneumonia (all Forms)	2	1	3
Congenital Debility	1	—	1
Suicide	1	—	1
Other violence	—	1	1
Other defined diseases	1	4	5
Ill defined or not known	1	—	1

General Provision of Health Services.

The Public Health Officers of the Authority are :—

Medical Officer of Health (who is also Assistant County Medical Officer of Health).

David A. McCracken M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Glasg).
(from March 1939).

Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor and Rate Collector.

A. E. Lloyd, M.R.S.I.

Veterinary Inspector, part time (up to 30th April, 1938).

E. W. Parks, M.R.C.V.S.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

The water supply of the town is under the control of the Higham Ferrers and Rushden Water Board and is drawn from the Reservoir at Sywell which is situated about 11 miles from the town. The "Constant Type" of supply is provided and the water is of excellent quality. During 1938 a total of 128,926,000 gallons were supplied to Rushden and Higham Ferrers, 16·8 gallons per head per day being supplied for domestic purposes, and 2·59 gallons per head per day for trade purposes.

Further details of the sanitary condition of the Borough will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

Housing.

An enquiry was held by an Inspector of the Ministry of Health during the year respecting 7 houses in High Street, 14 houses in Refuge Terrace, and 15 houses in Warmonds Hill. Clearance Orders were confirmed by the Ministry of Health, with the exception of two houses in Refuge Terrace.

The Town Yard property was demolished during the year and the site will in the future be utilised for building bungalows suitable for the housing of aged people. (12 bungalows).

A site at the Hockey Field has been secured for the provision of houses for tenants who will be displaced as the result of demolition orders.

Housing Statistics.

I. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the Year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	96
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	208
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932.	58
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	98
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	33
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	25

II. Remedy of Defects during the year without the service of formal Notice :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 13

III. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... 19

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners... .. 19

(b) By local authority in default of owners Nil

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 9

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :

(a) By owners... .. 9

(b) By local authority in default of owners Nil

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit... .. Nil

IV. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV., Overcrowding :—

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year Nil

(2) Number of families dwelling therein ... Nil

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein ... Nil

- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... Nil
- (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... Nil
- (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... Nil
- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ... Nil

Infectious Diseases.

The total number of cases of infectious disease excluding Tuberculosis notified during the year was 14. This figure compares with 16 for 1937, 10 for 1936, 4 for 1935, 7 for 1934 and 5 for 1933.

An analysis of the notified cases appears in the following table :

Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1938.

Disease	At all ages.	Under 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	10	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	—	1	4	—	3
Erysipelas	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	2	—	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	23	2	1	—	—	—	4	—	3	5	2	2	4	—	4

Comparison of Notification Rates.

Disease			Rates per 1,000 population	
			England and Wales	Higham Ferrers
Scarlet Fever	...	....	2.41	0.64
Pneumonia	...	...	1.10	2.84
Erysipelas	...	...	0.40	0.32
Diphtheria	...	...	1.58	0.35

Smallpox. No case of this disease occurred during 1938.

Scarlet Fever. Two cases were notified showing a decrease of four on the number for the previous year. The disease was of a mild type.

Diphtheria. One case was notified.

Puerperal Fever. No case of this disease occurred during the year.

Pneumonia. Ten cases were notified as compared with six for 1937. There were three deaths.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum. Two cases were notified during the year.

Tuberculosis. Seven cases were notified as compared with two cases last year, and there was one death from this disease.

The following table shews the age and sex incidence of the disease.

New Cases and Mortality during 1938.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
25	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & up.	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	4	2	1	—	1	—	—	—

**Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations
1925, and Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.**

No action has been taken under these regulations or under the Public Health Act.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Members and Officers of the Council for their help and assistance they have afforded me since my appointment in March 1939.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

D. A. McCracken.

Sanitary Inspector's Report.

TOWN HALL,

HIGHAM FERRERS,

July, 1939.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Higham Ferrers.

I beg to submit for your consideration my Annual Report of the sanitary condition of the Borough of Higham Ferrers and of the work executed under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1875, and other Acts, for the year ending 31st December, 1938.

House Refuse.

1144 loads of house refuse and 805 loads of trade refuse have been removed during the year, giving an average of 22 loads per week for house refuse, and $15\frac{1}{2}$ for trade.

The work of providing the houses with suitable receptacles is progressing in a satisfactory manner, but much still remains to be done in this direction during the ensuing year.

During the year 26 houses have been supplied with proper galvanised sanitary dustbins with covers, in lieu of cardboard boxes, tin pails, wooden boxes, and other undesirable insanitary receptacles. Whilst these bins are a decided improvement on the wooden receptacles, they soon become foul unless the tenant does his duty and keeps the receptacle in proper condition. It has been found necessary to draw the tenant's attention to this fact in many instances, owing to the insanitary state the receptacle has been allowed to get in.

All the house refuse continues to be collected from the premises, instead of the householders setting same out in the street for collection.

The provision of a more suitable refuse tip has been arranged, and all house and trade refuse dealt with by the method known as "Controlled Tipping."

Infectious Disease.

Two cases of Scarlet Fever, ten of Pneumonia, one of Erysipelas, one of Diphtheria and two of Ophthalmia occurred during the year. These were kept under observation and disinfectant supplied; the houses being fumigated after convalescence.

Seven cases of Tuberculosis were notified to your Medical Officer of Health.

Sewers and Ventilating Shafts.

During the year the sewers throughout the town have been periodically inspected and flushed. One additional ventilating shaft has been erected, and a new manhole constructed.

Complaints.

In all, 11 complaints were received and attended to during the past year, and where nuisances were found to exist, notices were served to abate same.

Unsound Meats and other Foods.

The following diseased meat and other foods were destroyed during the year :—

Amount surrendered	...	...	13 lbs.
Number of defective and blown tins of fish, fruit, etc.	...	...	23 tins

Sewage Disposal Works.

A scheme has been prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Health for the reconstruction of the existing works, in order to deal with the ever increasing volume of Sewage, and the exclusion of storm water.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are no Common Lodging Houses registered as such in the district.

Bakehouses.

There are four Bakehouses on the register, and they are regularly visited. There are no underground bakehouses in the district within the meaning of the Act.

Slaughterhouses.

There are three Slaughterhouses on the register. Two of the premises are of a very poor description structurally, and will require repairing, but all are kept in good condition as regards cleanliness.

Paving of Backyards and Passages.

A considerable amount of work has been accomplished in this direction, but much still remains to be done, and I propose giving this matter again careful attention during the coming year.

During the year the backyards and passages to 62 cottages have been asphalted throughout, or the existing paving repaired.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.

There are twelve names on the register carrying on the trade of Cowkeepers, Dairymen, or Purveyors of Milk, seven being Cowkeepers and Dairymen, and five Purveyors of Milk.

The Cowsheds are for the most part in good condition structurally, and kept in good condition as regards cleanliness. Two Cowsheds have been reconstructed throughout.

Petroleum Acts.

The stores are kept in conformity with the regulations in force in the district.

Factory and Workshops Act.

Two notices were received from one of H.M. Inspectors of Factories, calling attention to W.C. accommodation, etc. In each case the complaints referred to have been remedied.

During the year the usual lists have been received relating to outworkers.

The work at which the outworkers were engaged was principally connected with boot and shoe making and processes incidental thereto.

Water Supply.

The town water supply has been analysed during the year, and found to be excellent in quality.

During the year, 31 new supplies from the water mains to houses, etc., for drinking and flushing purposes, and 19 extensions of services have been completed.

Rivers and Streams.

No action was found necessary to check the pollution of rivers and streams in the area.

Public Schools.

The drainage, sanitary appliances and fittings at the schools have been periodically examined and found to be in a satisfactory condition, and the offices are kept in good condition as regards cleanliness.

Public Urinals.

These are regularly inspected. Those attached to the various public houses, etc., are kept in good condition. In one case additional sanitary accommodation has been provided.

Notices Served.

During the year 17 informal notices and two statutory notices were given to owners and agents respecting nuisances. All the complaints were rectified.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919.

54 Rat Tails were brought in during the year.

Drainage and Sewerage.

House drainage has again received careful attention.

All the houses and factories in the town have adopted the water carriage system for the disposal of excremental matter, and a proper flushing apparatus provided to every W.C.

Smoke Abatement.

During the year it has been necessary to draw the attention of certain occupiers of houses and factories in the town to a smoke nuisance caused by the burning of leather bits, and to request them to discontinue this practice.

Rag Flocks Acts 1911 and 1928.

There are no premises in the district on which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

No case of infestation came to the notice of the department during the year.

Rainfall for Higham Ferrers during 1938.

I am indebted to Mr. R. W. Janes for the following information :—

Recorded at Higham Ferrers Council School.

January	...	...	...	...	2·27
February	...	...	...	...	·65
March	...	...	...	...	·10
April	...	...	...	...	·02
May	...	...	...	...	1·70
June	...	...	...	...	1·02
July	...	...	...	...	1·14
August	...	...	...	...	3·10
September	...	...	...	...	1·36
October	...	...	...	...	2·40
November	...	...	...	...	2·28
December	...	...	...	...	2·41
					<hr/>
					18·45 ins.

Housing.

There were 25 new houses erected in the Borough during the year, by private enterprise.

Council Housing Schemes.

The following are the details of the Council's Housing Schemes at the close of December, 1938 :—

Windmill Banks	...	Houses erected and occupied	20
Westfield Street	...	" " " "	4
Simpson Avenue	...	" " " "	36
George Street	...	" " " "	24
Newman Street	...	" " " "	28
King's Avenue	...	" " " "	46
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			158

Milk Sampling.

Arrangements have been made with the County Council for samples of Milk to be taken periodically and submitted to the County Medical Officer for the purpose of analysis, in order to ensure a clean milk supply. During the year, 30 samples have been taken.

In conclusion, I should like to express my thanks for the support I have received from the Sanitary Committee and the Council, also for the assistance I have received from the Medical Officer.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

A. E. LLOYD.

Summary of Work done during the year 1938.

Houses or rooms cleansed	...	...	...	3
Internal walls pointed and repaired	...	...	...	5
Eaves, gutters, and spoutings provided or repaired	...	...	...	15
Defective roofs repaired	...	...	...	23
Defective ceilings repaired	...	...	...	19
Defective windows repaired or new ones provided	...	...	...	3
Defects in sanitary fittings	...	...	...	29
Floors in living rooms repaired	...	...	...	4
Dangerous and defective stairs repaired or renewed	...	...	...	2
Chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	13
Outhouses cleansed, repaired or rebuilt	...	...	...	8
Bedroom floors repaired	...	...	...	3
Yard paving repaired or renewed	...	...	...	62
Defective flues and coppers repaired	...	...	...	9
Defective drains repaired or relaid	...	...	...	7
W.C. apartments lighted and ventilated	...	...	...	1
Foul quarry sinks replaced by glazed stoneware sinks	...	...	...	3
New sinks provided	...	...	...	9
Sink waste pipes repaired	...	...	...	15
Sub-floor ventilation provided	...	...	...	2
Old drains ventilated	...	...	...	1
Rainwater pipes disconnected from drains	...	...	...	4
Additional inspection chambers provided to existing drains	...	...	...	2
Galvanised dustbins provided	...	...	...	26
Choked drains opened and cleansed	...	...	...	11
Town water laid on to cowsheds	...	...	...	1
W.C. seats repaired	...	...	...	7
Flushing apparatus to W.C.'s repaired or renewed	...	...	...	19
Street gullies provided	...	...	...	5
New floors to cowsheds	...	...	...	2
Accumulations of manure	...	...	...	4
New covers provided to inspection chambers	...	...	...	2
Fresh-air inlets provided or repaired	...	...	...	2
Choked ventilating shafts opened, cleared and repaired	...	...	...	4
Backways made up and repaired	...	...	...	2
Complaints investigated	...	...	...	11
Common yards and premises inspected	...	...	...	208
Written letters and notices sent respecting abatement of nuisances, etc.	...	...	...	19
Houses and rooms sprayed and fumigated after infectious diseases	...	...	...	16
Consumptive homes sprayed and fumigated	...	...	...	3
Visits made in connection with infectious diseases	...	...	...	16
No of houses inspected :—				
(a) As a result of a complaint	...	...	...	11
(b) As a result of infectious diseases	...	...	...	16
(c) As a result of consumptive homes	...	...	...	7
(d) As part of inspection under the Housing Acts	...	...	...	96
(e) Inspections made in respect of factories, workshops, workplaces and outworkers	...	...	...	19
Periodically inspected :—				
Licensed and registered slaughter houses	...	...	...	3
Bakehouses	...	...	...	4
Registered milkshops, dairies and cowsheds	...	...	...	12
House refuse removed	...	...	...	1144
Trade refuse removed	...	...	...	805

